

On the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I join every American in honoring the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives to those attacks. I pay tribute to their memory, and extend my deepest sympathies to the loved ones they left behind.

I also honor the brave first responders—the firefighters, policemen, and ordinary citizens—who so courageously risked and, in many cases, gave their lives for others.

Over the past seven years, Americans have worked tirelessly to prevent further attacks and protect the American people. We remain steadfast in our determination to uproot and defeat terrorist organizations worldwide.

To help keep our country safe against future attacks, the 110th Congress has passed legislation that requires 100 percent of aircraft cargo be screened and 100 percent of seaborne cargo be scanned before it arrives at U.S. ports. Further, this legislation improves security on our rail and public transit systems. But today's threats – terrorism, the upheaval caused by global economic change, worldwide epidemics, and environmental devastation – cannot be addressed by military force alone. Protecting national security also demands providing aid to developing economies, addressing poverty, and preventing further damage to the environment.

It is the first-order duty of Congress to keep Americans safe. As we commemorate the seventh anniversary of 9/11, I join Americans across our nation in grieving for loved ones lost, and in honoring the heroes among us. I resolve to do all in my power to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Earl Blumenauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Earl" being more prominent and the last name "Blumenauer" following in a similar style.